

REMARKS

At the outset, applicant and his attorneys wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the recent interview. The Examiner's careful attention to the application and helpful suggestions on that occasion are greatly appreciated.

The inventor and his Irish patent counsel were present at the interview.

It will be recalled that the inventor demonstrated several models at the interview. One of the models consisted of a reproduction of a horse's fetlock joint, whose rotation can put great stress on the tendon.

The present invention alleviates that stress, by providing an essentially inelastic connector of high tensile strength, interconnecting the cannon-bone-embracing collar 2 and the pastern-bone-embracing collar 3, and arranged across the posterior side of the fetlock joint and centrally of that joint; so as to limit fetlock joint movement within a predetermined range of pivot rotation. This essentially inelastic connector is shown in our drawing, for example in Fig. 1 as a strap 6.

Another of the models was the device of SCHUERCH, which was shown to have no relationship at all to the present invention.

The demonstrations conducted by the inventor at the interview included a demonstration of a device according to SHAFER, in which crossed straps corresponding to SHAFER's crossed

straps 37, 41 crossed each other at a point just below what, in SHAFER, would be the kneecap. As was evident from the demonstration of this model, those crossed straps did not limit fetlock joint movement, but rather permitted such movement. This is exactly in accordance with SHAFER's recital, in column 1, lines 25 and 26, in which it is pointed out that such a crossed strap arrangement permits normal flexure of the knee joint.

By contrast, the whole point of the present invention is to limit what would otherwise be normal flexure of the joint. In other words, the present invention is exactly the opposite of SHAFER, as to this feature.

Thus, even if the three references are combined, as proposed by the final rejection, the device of the present invention as now claimed would not be met, because there would be no essentially inelastic connector of high tensile strength connected to one or more points on each of the cannon-bone-embracing collar and the pastern-bone-embracing collar arranged across the posterior side and centrally of the fetlock joint so as to limit fetlock joint movement within a predetermined range of pivot rotation.

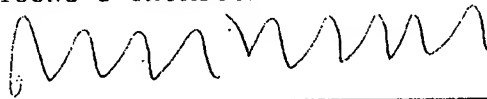
At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner recommended that we submit the present amendment (without a Request for Continued Examination), whereupon he would review the prior art and reach a decision.

In view of the recent interview, the present amendment and the foregoing Remarks, therefore, it is believed that that decision can only be favorable to patentability, and such is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Robert J. Patch', written over a horizontal line.

Robert J. Patch, Reg. No. 17,355
209 Madison Avenue, Suite 500
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573

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